detergents, cosmetics, leather processing, animal care products, nutraceuticals, biomedical research, and forensics.

It was the Biotechnology Center that provided early funding for BioResource International and NC State to investigate how Versazyme™ works. The results of those studies led to a new company, 10 U.S. and international patents, and hundreds of thousands of dollars in federal funding.

Scientific Collaboration

In addition to funding new research, the Biotechnology Center also brings scientists together to share ideas. The Plant Molecular Biology Consortium brings together academic and industrial scientists to discuss research at the molecular level. This forum has thrived for almost two decades with participation from hundreds of scientists, as well as generous corporate sponsorships.

Teaching the teachers

The Biotechnology Center reaches across the state every year to teachers who are eager to learn more about agricultural biotechnology topics. The Summer Workshops for Educators have reached more than 1,450 North Carolina teachers, who in turn have taught hundreds of thousands of North Carolina students. These Biotechnology Center-sponsored workshops have included: Introductory Biotechnology, Biotechnology for Plants, Animals and the Environment (which includes current techniques in animal husbandry, applications of plant science and environmental protection), and Forensic DNA from the Irish Potato Famine Pathogen.

The workshop on the Irish potato famine is easy to relate to modern agriculture, given that the potato is ranked 17th in major North Carolina farm commodities and had 2006 cash receipts of $31 million.

The Biotechnology Center has also funded the development of courses in agricultural biotechnology, including Biotechnology and Agriscience Research I, a high school course that was part of the Career and Technical Education curriculum, as well as a middle school course on Exploring Biotechnology that has an agricultural component.

The Biofuels Center of North Carolina

The North Carolina General Assembly funded the Biofuels Center of North Carolina in 2007 to spearhead development of a statewide biofuels industry and reduce the state's dependence on imported liquid fuels—currently estimated at about 5.6 billion gallons a year. The Center, based in Oxford, teams with academic, agricultural, civic and other leaders across the state to ensure that by 2017, 10 percent of that amount will be biofuels grown and produced locally, primarily from non-food sources that might include wood and animal wastes and specialty grasses.

More information is available at *biofuelscenter.org*.